

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRASIL 00216 111159Z

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DHA-02 IO-13 /102 W

-----111204Z 003730 /22

R 111145Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9517

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 0216

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, GY, SF, BR

SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICAN INFLUENCE IN BRAZIL

REF: LAGOS 0195

1. WE FIND WILLS' CLAIMS OF NEFARIOUS SOUTH AFRICAN PRESENCE AND INFLUENCE IN BRAZIL INCREDIBLE. IN PROCESS OF EMPHASIZING ITS RELATIONS WITH BLACK AFRICAN STATES IN PAST THREE YEARS OR SO, BRAZIL HAS CHILLED ITS RELATIONS WITH PRETORIA TO THE POINT WHERE SOUTH AFRICA IS ALMOST A DIPLOMATIC PARIAH HERE. FOR MORE THAN TWO YEARS BRAZIL HAS DECLINED TO NAME AN AMBASSADOR TO PRETORIA, LEAVING ITS MISSION THERE AT THE CHARGE LEVEL. BRAZIL NOT ONLY
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DECLINED TO RECOGNIZE TRANSKEI, BUT REFUSED VISAS IN PRE-INDEPENDENCE PERIOD TO COMBINED SOUTH AFRICAN-TRANSKEI DELEGATION AND HAS BANNED PRO-TRANSKEI SOUTH AFRICAN FILMS AND RELEASES FROM STATE-LICENSED MEDIA. FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA HAS PUBLICLY EXCORIATED APARTHEID POLICIES OF PRETORIA, REAFFIRMING ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS THAT BRAZIL UNWILLING TO ENTER INTO COOPER-

ACTIVE DEFENSE ARRANGEMENTS FOR SOUTH ATLANTIC WITH SOUTH AFRICA AS LONG AS PRETORIA FOLLOWS ITS UNACCEPTABLE RACIAL POLICIES. WE UNDERSTAND FROM SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY OFFICIALS HERE TREATMENT THEY ARE RECEIVING PRIVATELY FROM BRAZILIANS IS AS BAD AS PUBLIC TREATMENT. GHANA AMBASSADOR HERE RECENTLY GAVE INTERVIEW IN WHICH HE COMMENDED BRAZIL FOR "FREEZING" RELATIONS WITH PRETORIA.

2. GOB OBVIOUSLY REMAINS UNCOMFORTABLE OVER CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF RIO-JOHANNESBURG AIR LINK AND OVER FACT THAT SOUTH AFRICA, UNTIL RECENTLY, WAS BRAZIL'S MAJOR AFRICAN TRADING PARTNER. GOB NOW STRESSING BUILDING UP TRADE AND CIVIL AIR LINKS WITH BLACK AFRICAN STATES AND NOT GOING OUT OF ITS WAY TO DEVELOP FURTHER TRADE OPPORTUNITIES IN SOUTH AFRICA. BRAZILIANS RECENTLY CLAIMED WITH MUCH FANFARE THAT ANGOLA HAD SURPASSED SOUTH AFRICA IN TOTAL VOLUME OF BILATERAL TRADE, WITH TOTAL TRADE WITH NIGERIA SOON TO FOLLOW.

3. WE ARE SURPRISED TO SEE THAT WILLS HAS REVIVED CLAIMS OF THREAT TO GUYANA FROM BRAZIL, AS INDICATIONS HAVE BEEN THAT GUYANESE HAD ABANDONED THIS TACK FOLLOWING WILLS' VISIT TO BRASILIA IN JULY , 1976. WE HAVE NO NEW INFORMATION THAT WOULD MAKE US REVISE OUR PREVIOUS ASSESSMENTS THAT BRAZIL HAS NO AGGRESSIVE DESIGNS ON GUYANA. IN ANY EVENT, WE ARE CONVINCED THAT WHATEVER BRAZIL'S LONG RANGE INTENTION TOWARDS GUYANA MAY BE, THEY ARE NOT MOTIVATED BY ANY SOUTH CONFIDENTIAL

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AFRICAN PRESENCE OR INFLUENCE.
CRIMMINS

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